GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4323
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2017
Promotion of Horticulture
Prasad Dr. Bhagirath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the status of imports of vegetables and fruits in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large quantum of vegetables and fruits are being imported every year despite availability of huge human resource and vast agriculture resources in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government for the promotion of horticulture to enhance the growth of the production of fruits and vegetables in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

â€¡Ã£Ã°Å Ã£Ã¤Ã“Ã£ ??? ????? ?????? Â½Ã£Ã¢Â¨Ã£Ã£ÃŠÃ£Â¾Ã£ Â½Ã£Ã±Ã¢ Ã€Ã£â€¢Â¾Ã£ Â½Ã£Ã¢Â¨Ã£Ã£Ã¨ (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a): The details of import of vegetables and fruits during the last three years are enclosed at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): India is a net exporter of fresh vegetables. During 2015-16, India's exports of Vegetables were Rs. 4762.62 crores where as imports were Rs. 211.70 crores. However, in case of fruits, India is a net importer. India's imports of fresh fruits during 2015-16 were Rs. 11013.29 crores and exports were Rs. 3918.41 crores. The increase in imports of fruits is due to high value import of apples, figs, oranges, kiwi fruits and pears to meet the gap between demand and supply.

(d): Government has been implementing centrally sponsored scheme called Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during 12th Five Year Plan for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables etc. The Mission envisages production and productivity improvement of horticulture crops including fruits through various interventions. Activities such as production of planting materials, vegetable seed production, coverage of area with improved cultivars, rejuvenation of senile orchards, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming, including insitu generation of organic inputs are taken up for development of fruits and vegetables under this scheme. Capacity buildings of farmers and technicians are also provided for adopting improved technologies. Scheme also envisages creation of infrastructure for Post Harvest Management (PHM) and marketing for better price realization of produce.